



## Summer Food Service Program



### Bulletin

#### Child Nutrition Programs

Teaching and Learning Support  
801 West 10th Street, Suite 200  
P.O. Box 110500  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0500  
Phone (907) 465 4788  
Fax (907) 465-8910

**To:** SFSP Sponsors  
Program Reviewers

**Date:** August 7, 2015

**Bulletin:** 2015-10

**From:** Alicia Stephens  
SFSP Program Specialist

**Subject:** USDA Policy Memos and Information

---

### USDA Policy Memos, Information & Implementation Memos:

To view previous USDA policy memos, visit:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/sfsp/policy>

1. SFSP 20-2015 – 2015 Edition of Eligibility Manual for Schools
2. TA 01-2015 – Child Nutrition Programs and Traditional Foods
3. SFSP10-2014 (v3) – Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs
4. SFSP21-2015 – Service of Traditional Foods in Public Facilities

#### Additional Topics:

- Volunteer Recruitment
- Summer Site Finder
- Promoting Summer Fitness & Nutrition
- Claim Reimbursement Timeline for June & July
- Upcoming Webinars & Conference Calls

---

**Program changes as a result of USDA Policy Memos are to be implemented immediately. Please file this bulletin for reference, guidance and compliance with the Summer Food Service Program. Feel free to call the Child Nutrition Programs office if you need further clarification.**

---

### USDA Policy Memos, Information & Implementation Memos:

1. SFSP 20-2015 **2015 Edition of Eligibility Manual for Schools**  
This version incorporates clarifications requested by State agencies and Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) regional offices as well as applicable guidance issued since the last revision. This updated version reflects changes made since that time, specifically:
  - Pertinent policy memoranda issued since August 2014,
  - Information on the new prototype application,
  - Elimination of duplicative information, and
  - Incorporation of the questions and answers into the appropriate sections.

Two versions are available online here: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/2015-edition-eligibility-manual-school-meals>. The highlighted version will be removed after three months.

2. TA 01-2015 **Child Nutrition Programs and Traditional Foods**

Recently several representatives of Native communities have inquired about serving traditional foods in Child Nutrition Programs (CNP). In particular, Native communities are interested in knowing which traditional foods are allowed and how these foods may contribute towards a reimbursable meal.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) understands the importance of serving traditional foods and encourages Indian Tribal Organizations, along with all operators of CNPs, to source locally grown and raised foods. The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify that traditional foods may be served in CNPs and to provide examples of how several traditional foods may contribute towards a reimbursable meal.

*Please refer to the EED “Traditional Foods and Donated Fish and Game” webpage for more information on using traditional foods in Alaska Child Nutrition Programs:*  
<https://education.alaska.gov/TLS/CNP/TFDFG.html>

3. SFSP 10-2014 (v3) **Smoothies Offered in Child Nutrition Programs**

Version 3 of this memorandum clarifies that vegetables and yogurt used in smoothies may credit towards meeting the snack meal pattern requirements. As fruit, vegetable, milk, and yogurt smoothies are an increasingly common food item in the Child Nutrition Programs (CNP), the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS) has modified the guidance on smoothies to allow for the crediting of vegetables and yogurt in smoothies at any meal or snack offered through the CNPs, including supper for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). These additional ingredients provide variety to program operators seeking to include appealing and nutritious smoothies on their menus. This memorandum replaces previous guidance on smoothies.

4. SFSP 21-2015 **Service of Traditional Foods in Public Facilities**

Section 4033 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (P.L. 113-79) (Farm Bill) directs the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Food and Drug Administration to allow the donation to and serving of traditional food through food service programs at public facilities and nonprofit facilities, including those operated by Indian tribes and facilities operated by tribal organizations, that primarily serve Indians. While this provision affects other food service programs this memorandum is intended to provide guidance relating to this provision for schools and institutions operating the USDA Child Nutrition Programs.

This provision of the Farm Bill was effective upon enactment in February 2014. We are providing basic information at this time to ensure that program operators may use it effectively as part of the USDA Child Nutrition Programs. Please note, under this Farm Bill provision, donated traditional foods are not considered USDA Foods.

## **Additional Topics**

---

- **Volunteer Recruitment**

A reliable volunteer base is important to the success of any Summer Meals Program. Volunteers can help with outreach, supervision, meal preparation, and activities. When searching for volunteers, sponsors can target the following groups:

- Teen Interns. “Summer Meals Internships” can encourage teens older students to become involved in the Program.
- Local Employers. Businesses can choose one day each week to send staff to volunteer at a site.
- Senior Citizen Programs. AARP’s “Create the Good” (<http://www.createthegood.org/>) and Senior Corps (<http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/senior-corps>) are great places to find older volunteers.
- Volunteer Directories. Sponsors can share opportunities on national volunteer websites, such as United We Serve (<http://www.serve.gov/?q=site-page/endhunger-sfsp>) and Volunteer.gov (<https://www.volunteer.gov/>).

- **Summer Site Finder**

Although fall is just around the corner, site supervisors across the country are still working hard to reach kids before the school year begins. FNS relies on sponsors to get the word out about site locations in their communities. Continue to encourage families to use the Site Finder to find summer sites in their neighborhood. Please confirm the accuracy of your site information; questions may be directed to your State agency.

To access the Site Finder, visit: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>.

- **Promoting Summer Fitness & Nutrition**

Nutrition Activities:

- Try-Day Friday. Host a recurring event where kids sample new foods and indicate how much they like each sample on a “Try-Day Ballot.”
- Mock Grocery Store. Invite kids to participate in a “shopping simulation” where they learn how purchase foods from each MyPlate food group.
- Food Smarts. Pair participants with an older “book buddy” who can read them a story about healthy behaviors.
- MyPlate Food Drive. Demonstrate the importance of giving back by hosting a “Healthy Foods Drive,” helping kids identify affordable foods from each food group.
- Healthy Food Scavenger Hunt. Have teams of children “search” for ingredients for a healthy snack, then prepare the snack together once all the ingredients are found.

For more suggestions, check out the Team Nutrition Popular Events Idea Booklet:

<http://www.fns.usda.gov/team-nutrition-popular-events-idea-booklet>

Fitness Activities:

- Sports & Games. Ask local sporting good stores or gyms to donate used athletic equipment, such as jump ropes, kick balls, and Frisbees, for the children to play with before or after their meal.
- Fitness Class. Invite a fitness instructor from the local gym to lead a Zumba or yoga session, or ask older teens and college students to lead physical activities, such as jumping jacks, for younger participants.
- Wellness Day. Promote wellness for the entire family by hosting a “Community Wellness Day” at your sites. Local health organizations and dieticians can provide “activity stations” to share fitness tips and promote active lifestyles.

For more tips, check out Team Nutrition’s Power Up with Local Athletes:

[http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/TNevents\\_powerup.pdf](http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/TNevents_powerup.pdf)

- **Claim Reimbursement Timeline for June & July**

As a reminder, the State of Alaska closes out their fiscal year in the end of June which may delay processing June and July payments. The State also switched over to a new statewide, procurement and financial system called IRIS, which may also effect payment timelines. EED has 30 days to process payments from the date the claim was submitted for approval.

- **Upcoming Webinars & Conference Calls**

- Share Our Strength – What Summer Meals Mean for Kids: **Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:00AM**  
We have long known that losing access to school meals can have a lasting effect on kids’ lives, but what is that really costing families and communities? Deloitte and Share Our Strength partnered on a new report, [Summer Nutrition Program Social Impact Analysis](#), which summarizes existing research and presents a new analysis to demonstrate the positive impacts of providing children with better access to summer meals programs. Join us for a webinar to review the full report...

To register, please visit: <http://join.nokidhungry.org/site/R?i=grDXWqdfyc9kk2SySe6hbA>

- FRAC – Debriefing Summer and Setting the Scene for Next Year: **Thursday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00AM**

Early fall is the perfect time to debrief with partners on what worked and what didn't this summer. This call will cover ways to look back and evaluate your summer nutrition program's challenges and successes and use the knowledge to increase participation next year.

To register, please visit:

[http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event\\_KEY=78242](http://org2.salsalabs.com/o/5118/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=78242)

## Contact Information

Alicia Stephens, SFSP Program Specialist  
(907) 465-4788 fax (907) 465-8910  
[Alicia.Stephens@alaska.gov](mailto:Alicia.Stephens@alaska.gov)

Alexis Hall, SFSP Education Program Assistant  
(907) 465-4969 fax (907) 465-8910  
[Alexis.Hall@alaska.gov](mailto:Alexis.Hall@alaska.gov)

## Commonly Used Acronyms

SFSP – Summer Food Service Program  
CNP – Child Nutrition Programs  
WRO – Western Region Office  
FNS – Food & Nutrition Services  
FNSRO-Food & Nut Services Reg. Office  
USDA – U.S. Department of Agriculture  
EED – Education & Early Development  
DEC – Department of Conservation  
LEA – Local Education Agency



*The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the bases of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)*

*If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).*

*Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800)845-6136 (Spanish).*

*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*